

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade  
September 10, 2012  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

September 10	MAP Testing
September 15	Harvest Social
September 17-19	Free Dental Clinic
September 19	Tall Windy Sailing Field Trip
September 20	Curriculum Night

## Dear Families,

This week, we add band and orchestra lessons to our schedules. We have discussed with students the importance of keeping up with work they miss while attending band, orchestra, and chorus and that it is each student's responsibility to find out what they missed and complete the work on time.

## **We are in need of large, clean pizza delivery boxes and 2-liter bottles for science experiments.**

If you have these items, please send them our way. Also, if you have any nonfiction books or magazines that you are no longer in need of, we would love to add them to our classroom libraries.

Our first field trip is a sail on The Windy tall ship on Wednesday, September 19. Permission slips will go home with students this week, but you can also download a copy from the Wiki. <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/Permission+Slips>

You will have an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20. Please plan to attend. We look forward to meeting you!

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**Art** - 5th graders are back at it in the Art room. We have been reviewing the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, space, value, texture, & color). We are creating a mixed media drawing project featuring these Elements as a warm-up for many exciting other projects coming this year.

**Music** - We will be using recorders in music this week. If your child cannot find their recorder they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to district 97 to music to purchase a new one. They also may purchase a recorder online from the Holmes store. Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. Financial assistance is available, if needed (email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org)). Not having a recorder in class does effect their grade, so please email me with any concerns.

**Spanish** - Welcome back to a new school year! The students have started out by reviewing common phrases to use in the classroom. We will be learning this year about several of the Spanish speaking countries and we will also be learning Spanish through stories. I look forward to sharing another exciting school year with the students!

**Library** - This past week we watched a video to get pumped about this fall's Reading Olympics competition. You can watch the video again, see this fall's list, and learn more by going to the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) and clicking on Reading Olympics. The Holmes competition will be on **Tuesday, November 20**. Reading Olympics permission forms were

sent home Friday and should be returned by **Friday, September 14.**

Please email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with questions.

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

This will be our last week of focusing on procedures and expectations of Reader's Workshop. This week, students will practice reading to someone else. They will practice reading the same book to each other, reading different books to each other and helping each other check for comprehension along the way. We will continue to build our reading and writing stamina as well. Next week we will begin our first reading unit which will incorporate stories from our reading series, Treasures, as well as novel studies. Spelling and grammar homework will also begin the week of September 17th.

### **Language Arts**

During our first unit of study in writing students will focus on investigating what it means to have strong personal character. This week students will pick one of the paragraphs they wrote last week to revising. We will specifically look to improve the word choice and sentence fluency of the piece.

### **Math**

This week, we will complete our unit on number theory. Our unit test will be on Thursday. The test will cover odd and even numbers, prime and composite numbers, factors and multiples, divisibility, square numbers, and prime factorization. We will review in class on Wednesday, and students will have a review sheet from which to study.

Every 5th grade student needs a calculator. We still have plenty of TI-15 calculators available for purchase. If you would like a calculator, please send \$16 in cash or check payable to District 97. You may also purchase a calculator online from the District 97 web store.

### **Science**

In science this week, we will review our pH experiment to connect it to our experiment that analyzes plants grown with acid rain. In our comparison of fossil fuels to renewable energy, we will begin to study

various sources and how they work, including hydropower, wind, and solar energy using hands-on activities to measure wind and water power. **We are in need of large, clean pizza delivery boxes and 2-liter bottles for experiments.** If you have these items, please send them our way.

### **Social Studies**

**Big Question:** How did the voyages of different explorers spread learning among communities? We will be learning about different explorers this week which include Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus. The students will also be assigned an explorer research project that they will work on over the next couple of weeks. On Friday, the students will use the information they collected throughout the week to answer the Big Question.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Ms. Peterson  
[apeterson@op97.org](mailto:apeterson@op97.org)

Ms. Yigzaw  
[svigzaw@op97.org](mailto:svigzaw@op97.org)